City of Puyallup
Development Services
333 S. Meridian
Puyallup, WA 98371
Tel. (253) 864-4165 Fax. (253) 840-6670

SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST
(2015 UPDATED VERSION)

Purpose of Checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), Chapter 43.21 RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for Applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown. You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

If you are not already submitting an 8-1/2" x 11" reduction of your project site plan to the city as part of a companion case submittal, please submit a copy as a part of this SEPA application.

Please submit eight (8) copies of the completed SEPA checklist application packet.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project:

Clarks Creek Elodea Management

2. Name of Applicant:

City of Puyallup

3. Mailing address, phone number of applicant and contact person:

333 S Meridian, Puyallup, WA 98371
(253)-435-3649
Kelton Parker, Stormwater Engineer

4. Date checklist prepared:

1/25/2023

5. Agency requesting checklist:

City of Puyallup

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

Project activities will occur during the allowable in-stream work window set by WA Department of Fish & Wildlife and Puyallup Tribe of Indians. To accommodate work a modified in-water work window may be requested.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

The scope of this project will not be expanded beyond the original footprint or area. Future work activity in this area for elodea removal will be determined with the guidance and recommendation of interested parties, including WDFW, Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Department of Ecology and Pierce County.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

A HPA will be submitted to WDFW.
A Shoreline Substantial Development Exemption will be submitted to the City of Puyallup.
A separate SEPA may be required by Pierce County, depending decision.
A Shoreline permit may be required by Pierce County, pending decision.
Clarks Creek TMDL Restoration Plan prepared by Pierce County

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

No

10. List any governmental approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

Shoreline Substantial Development Exemption (City of Puyallup)
Hydraulic Project Approval (WDFW)
Potentially Shoreline and SEPA for project activities outside City limits, and within unincorporated Pierce County

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information or project description).

The Clarks Creek Elodea Management project is located within the stream, from the mouth of Clarks Creek at the Puyallup River (Hwy 167 & 66th Street E intersection) to the 12th Ave SW Bridge. The process will include a diver-assisted suction harvesting (DASH) process. The Divers will enter the water from platform boats, using surface-supplied air. The divers will hand-pull each elodea plant including the root system without the use of tools. The diver will hand the plant mass to an approximately 4" suction hose under the water (Exhibit 2 –DASH Example). The plant material will be pumped to the surface, into screening bags located on a second platform boat.The plant material will be pumped to the surface, into screening bags located on a second platform boat. The plant material will dewater, the platforms floated to the specified haul-out locations (Exhibit 1 – Project Area & Haul-out Sites), and the bags then transferred to shore and disposed of off-site.

12. Location of proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If the proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range of boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

The project activities – including the hand-pulling of the plant material – will be within the OHWM of Clarks Creek. Transport of the filled plant-material bags will be at designated haul-out locations on the shore along the waterway (Exhibit 1 – Project Area & Haul-out Sites). The north extent of the project area is the confluence of Clarks Creek at the Puyallup River (Hwy 167 and 66th Ave E). The south extent of the project area is Clarks Creek at the 12th Ave SW bridge (Exhibit 1 – Project Area & Haul Out Sites).

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site
(circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep, slopes, mountains, other low-gradient stream channel

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? <0.5%

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example: clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.

The project extents are limited to the OHWM of Clarks Creek. Soils in this area include Puyallup fine sandy loams, Shalcar Muck, and Sultan silt loam.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

No

e. Describe the purpose, type and approximately quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

There will be no grading or filling.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction or use? If so, generally describe.

No. Stream access points are rocked with quarry spalls. Land-based machines are confined to rocked areas and will not contact native soils.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surface after project construction (for example: asphalt or buildings)?

Zero percent, no impervious surfaces are proposed.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

Vehicle access and operating pad are made with quarry spalls. The project operating window is confined to summer months when rainfall is typically at the lowest for the year and therefore the erosion potential is minimal.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Exhaust from construction vehicles will be produced during construction typical of a passenger truck and construction equipment. The amount of emissions is unknown.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

No

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any.

None

3. Water

a. Surface Water:

1. Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream and river it flows into.

Yes. This project is located on Clarks Creek, a Category I water body, which flows into the Puyallup River at the north extent of the project area

2. Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Yes. This project involves hand-pulling invasive aquatic growth within the Clarks Creek stream channel. A small gas-engine powered pontoon boat will move down the creek with the divers to provide surface-supplied air. The vaccum tubes used by the divers to transport the hand-pulled plant material to the surface will be mounted on the pontoon boats along with the catchment/dewatering containers.

3. Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

No fill or dredge material will be removed or placed in this project. All plant materials are hand-pulled, and no dredging of the creek bottom will occur. Any associated sediment lodged in the plant roots will be negligible in nature.

4. Will the proposal requires surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities, if known.

No. This project does not involve any surface water withdrawals or diversions.

5. Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain. If so, note location on the site plan.

Yes, project occurs within 100-year flood plain of Clarks Creek (Exhibit 3 – Floodplain Data).

6. Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No. This project does not involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters.

b. Ground:

1. Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No. No ground water will be withdrawn or water discharged to ground water.

2. Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals.....; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

Does not apply.

c. Water Runoff (including storm water):

1. Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) the method of collection and disposal, if any (including quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this flow into other waters? If so, describe.

The project will not use any external water sources. This project will not disrupt or modify the natural runoff that pre-exists along the length of the project.

2. Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

Waste materials from inadvertent spills related to the involved mechanical equipment could enter the ground water or Clarks Creek. BMPs and spill kits will be readily available on site in the event of a spill.

3. Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.

No

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any:

Mechanical equipment will be moved away from water for fueling operations. Spill kits will be required to be kept on-site during project activities included the use of mechanical equipment. Hydraulic equipment used in/on the water will use inherently biodegradable oil instead of hydraulic fluid.

4. Plants

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

- [x] deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
- [x] evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
- [x] shrubs
- [x] pasture
- [ ] crop or grain
- [ ] orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.
- [x] wet solid plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
- [x] water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- [ ] other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Elodea canadensis, curly-leafed pond weed, and other noxious plant species will be removed.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

None

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any.

None

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

Knotweed, common catsear, Himalayan blackberry, scotch broom, tansy, poison hemlock

5. Animals

a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

Birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other _____

Mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other _____

Fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other: _____

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Pacific Chinook Salmon, Bull Trout, and Bald Eagles are known to utilize/reside near Clarks Creek.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Yes, Pacific Chinook, Chum, and Coho salmon spawn here.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any.

These project activities will only occur during the in-stream work-window allowed by the Department of Fish and Wildlife, influenced by Puyallup Tribe of Indians, and will not coincide with fish spawning or release times. If fish are observed near the suction activities, work will be temporarily halted to allow the fish to safely leave the area. No fish will be handled during activities, no bald eagles will be disturbed.
Work only occurs in short sections of the stream at one time, so fish life will have ample opportunity to move away from or avoid the work area.

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

None known.

6. Energy and Natural Resources

a. What kind of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

There are no energy needs for the completed project.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

No. This project will not affect potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties.

c. What kind of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any.

Does not apply.

7. Environmental Health

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

Failure of equipment and/or fuel spills could result in oils and/or fuel from entering surface waters.

1. Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.

None known.

2. Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.

None.

3. Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.

Diesel fuel and oils from equipment.

4. Describe special emergency services that might be required.

A leak and/or spill would require a Hazmat response to contain the chemicals and prevent/reduce environmental hazard/exposure.

5. Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

Spill kits will be required to be kept on-site with mechanical equipment. Equipment will be moved away from the water during maintenance and refueling operations. Hydraulic equipment used on/in that water will use inherently biodegradable fluid instead of hydraulic fluid.

b. Noise

1. What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

None.

2. What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

Short term construction noise would be generated. Construction activity will be limited to hours identified in City Code.

3. Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any.

Noise generating activities will occur within typical daytime hours,as identified in City Code.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.

Clarks Creek is a stream corridor abutted by residential backyards, public park, and some agricultural/farm land. This project will have no impact on adjacent lands or land owners.
A Puyallup Tribe of Indians hatchery is located upstream of the project area. The project will not impact the use of the hatchery, however, concerns have been raised regarding increased turbidity resulting from the removal of Elodea root masses. To address this concern, the City of Puyallup and Pierce County have agreed to re-engage a Elodea Control Assessment Committee with WDFW and the Puyallup Tribe of Indians to re-evaluate control alternatives, provide recommendations and conduct turbidity monitoring during 2023 when no Elodea control is taking place to better understand the relationship between turbidity in the stream system and what role if any, DASH is has in that relationship.

b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to non-farm or non-forest use?

Some properties adjacent to the stream have pasture and row crops. The WSU Extension Research Campus is one of the adjacent properties to the stream. No agricultural land will be converted to other uses as part of this project.

1. Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how:

No

c. Describe any structures on the site.

There are no structures on the site, which is confined to the stream channel.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

No.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

Properties adjacent to the project site are zoned for Rural, Urban, agricultural/farm, vacant land, and Public space.

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Shoreline.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Aquatic, urban conservancy, natural

h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.

Yes. The project is located in Clarks Creek, a Category I stream.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

Does not apply.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

Does not apply.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any?

Does not apply.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any.

None. The project will not alter the land use for the area.

m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

Does not apply.

9. Housing

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Does not apply.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle or low-income housing.

Does not apply.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any.

Does not apply.

10. Aesthetics

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principle exterior building material(s) proposed?

Does not apply.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

None.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any.

Does not apply.

11. Light and Glare

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

None.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

Does not apply.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

None.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any?

Does not apply.

12. Recreation

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

Fishing, swimming, boating and bird watching.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

Recreational uses could be temporarily disrupted in the immediate vicinity of work. The removal of the elodea, however, will increase recreational opportunity in the watershed by improving habitat and removing a noxious weed.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any.

None.

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation

a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers located on or near the site? If so, specifically describe.

Puyallup Fish Hatchery, 1416 14th Street SW is registered historic site.

b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.

None known.

c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.

Does not apply.

d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

Does not apply.

14. <u>Transportation</u>

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

The project area is located within Clarks Creek and can be accessed at various bridges crossing the stream including: Tacoma Road, Pioneer Ave, 7th Ave SW, 12th Ave SW. Access to the street system will not be altered. (see Exhibit 1 – Project Area & Haul Out Sites).

b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

The project area is located within Clarks Creek and can be accessed at various bridges crossing the stream including: Tacoma Road, Pioneer Ave, 7th Ave SW, 12th Ave SW. The public transit service closest to the project area would be on W Pioneer Ave, at the intersection of 18th Ave SW, approximately 200 feet away from the bridge crossing Clarks Creek.

c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate?

Does not apply.

d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

No.

e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

No.

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?

None.

g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.

No.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

None. Does not apply.

15. Public Services

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

None. Does not apply.

16. Utilities

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:

electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other:

No utilities within the project area.

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

None.

C. SIGNATURE

I hereby state that I am the owner or authorized agent listed above, and certify that all information contained above and in exhibits attached hereto are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that the processing of this application may require additional supporting material upon request to City staff.

RIGHT OF ENTRY: By signing this application the applicant grants unto the City and it's agents the right to enter upon the premises for purpose of conducting all necessary inspection to determine compliance with applicable laws, codes, and regulations. This right of entry shall continue until a certificate of occupancy is issued for the property.

Signature of Property Owner: _____

Date: _____

Signature of Agent: _____

Date: _____

I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated: 01/26/2023 in Puyallup, Washington.

_____

(Signature of Applicant)